

Mountain Home Desert Sage Health Clinic



The new Desert Sage Health Clinic in Mountain Home was completed in November 2004. The Glenn's Ferry Health Clinic had an overloaded capacity and needed to expand its services into a new facility in Mountain Home. With the help of Rural Development loan and grant funds totaling \$800,000, the new clinic was built. It provides substantial services to low income populations. The new clinic offers primary health care as well as behavioral and dental care.

Culdesac Wastewater Treatment Plant

The completion of the wastewater treatment plant in the City of Culdesac brought the city into compliance with the State Department of Environmental Quality.

Rural Development funding of \$400,000 for this project enabled the City to replace lagoon liners, remove sludge, install new aeration equipment, rebuild sand filters and replace the existing chlorine contact chamber and blower building. The City was also able to construct new emergency generator buildings.



Blackfoot Charter School



A new charter school in Blackfoot is under construction. The school has amenities including floor heating, 6 intercept rooms, 6 classrooms, a library/media center and a lunch/common area. The school will have a large grassy area for outdoor play. The facility accommodates 120 students and 16 staff members.

The Charter School has been in operation for 5 years in leased facilities with an enrollment of 80 students encompassing kindergarten through 6th grade. The waiting list of approximately 60 students can now be accommodated in the new facility. RD funding includes a \$533,600 direct loan and a \$300,000 guaranteed loan (Bank of Idaho.)

AMERICA'S WETLANDS

- Our Vital Link Between Land and Water

by EPA



Wetlands are indeed the vital link between water and land. "Wetlands" is the collective term for marshes, swamps, bogs and similar areas found in generally flat vegetated areas. Wetlands can be found in nearly every county and climatic zone in the United States.

Only Recently have we begun to understand the importance that wetlands perform..

Wetlands are valuable natural resources and provide important benefits to people and the environment. They help regulate water levels within watersheds, improve water quality, reduce flood and storm damages, provide important fish and wildlife habitat and support recreational activities. They are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs. Only recently have we begun to understand the importance of the functions that wetlands perform.

- Wetlands have important filtering capabilities for intercepting surface water runoff from higher dry land before the runoff reaches open water. In performing this filtering function, wetlands also replenish groundwater used for drinking.
- The holding capacity of wetlands also helps to control floods and prevent water logging of crops.
- The ability of wetlands to control erosion is so valuable that some states are restoring wetlands in coastal areas to buffer storm surges.
- More than 1/3 of the U.S. threatened species live only in wetlands and depend upon them for survival.
- We use a wealth of natural products from wetlands, including fish, berries, timber and medicines derived from the soil and plants.
- Wetlands have recreational, historical, scientific and cultural values.

Today less than half of our original wetlands remain. Recent estimates indicate the rate of loss is between 70,000 and 90,000 acres annually on non-federal lands.

There are economic incentives for selling or donating wetlands to a qualified organization for preservation. You can find out more about these incentives by calling the Wetland Hotline at 1-800-832-7828.

How You Can Make A Difference!

- ◇ *Get Involved-find out where wetlands exist and support educational efforts.*
- ◇ *Support wetland and watershed protection initiatives.*
- ◇ *Purchase federal duck stamps to support wetland acquisition.*
- ◇ *Participate in the Clean Water Act Section 404 Program and state regulatory programs by reviewing public notices.*
- ◇ *Encourage neighbors, developers and state and local governments to protect the function and value of wetlands in your watershed.*
- ◇ *Rather than draining or filling wetlands, seek compatible uses involving minimal wetland alteration such as waterfowl production, hay and forage, selective timber harvests, etc.*
- ◇ *Set upland rather than wetland sites for development projects and avoid degradation during construction.*
- ◇ *Maintain wetlands and adjacent buffer strips as open spaces.*
- ◇ *Learn more about wetland restoration activities in your area, seek and support opportunities to restore degraded wetlands.*



Bonner Humane Society

The Bonner Humane Society needed help in purchasing a building they had occupied and leased for 15 years. They also wanted to make the building ADA accessible. Rural Development was able to help by granting the Humane Society a direct loan for \$130,000. The Bonner Humane Society located in



Sandpoint, Idaho offers low cost spay and neutering, as well as veterinary services and medicines. This is a valuable service to this moderate income area.

Paradise Valley Fire Station

The Paradise Valley Fire Department in Boundary County was in desperate need of a new fire station to house their equipment and a meeting/training space for the firefighters. They applied to Rural Development for a \$180,000 loan and \$35,000 grant. The funding enabled the county to build a new fire station to provide better service & protect their equipment from the weather.



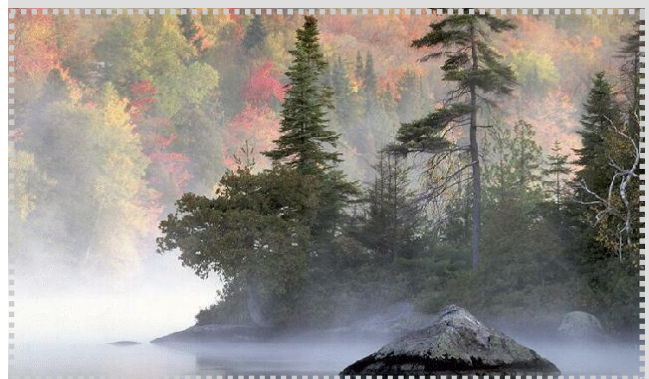
Turning Waste Into Wonder

by Environmental Protection Publication

With populations on the rise, solutions for dealing with increasing waste levels have become more necessary. Current disposal and remediation techniques, such as landfills and incineration have their costs, particularly where the environment is concerned. A Connecticut based company has developed a plasma-based technology for clean waste disposal and energy production. Plasma (often referred to as the 4th state of matter) is the core of the company's strategy. Their closed-loop elemental recycling system safely and irreversibly destroys waste of all kinds—hazardous and non-hazardous solids, liquids and gases. It also transforms the waste into valuable commodities that can be used or sold for a profit.

The System produces temperatures 3 times hotter than the sun's surface.

The converter is an electrically driven system that uses anion-charged plasma to create an arc of lightening that causes the dissociation of the molecular bonds of waste. The system produces temperatures in excess of 35,000 degrees Fahrenheit (*3 times hotter than the sun's surface*), that transforms carbon-based, organic materials like wood, paper and petroleum products into plasma converted gas (PCG). This clean synthesis gas mixture, hydrogen-rich, can be used to make electricity, produce fresh water, heat and cool buildings and power vehicles. The Plasma converter



melts non-organic materials such as metals, glass, sand and rock. This results in an obsidian-like, glassy silicate compound which is a valuable commodity and can be used as raw materials for metals, construction and abrasive industries. For more information visit : www.startech.net

Protect Your Water For Life-Vulnerability Assessment Factsheet.

What is the Purpose of Vulnerability Assessments?

By EPA



Vulnerability assessments help water systems evaluate susceptibility to potential threats and identify corrective actions that can reduce or mitigate the risk of serious consequences from adversarial actions (e.g., vandalism, insider sabotage, terrorist attack, etc.). Such an assessment for a water system takes into account the vulnerability of the water supply (both ground and surface water), transmission, treatment, and distribution systems. It also considers risks posed to the surrounding community related to attacks on the water system. An effective vulnerability assessment serves as a guide to the water utility by providing a prioritized plan for security upgrades, modifications of operational procedures, and/or policy changes to mitigate the risks and vulnerabilities to the utility's critical assets. The vulnerability assessment provides a framework for developing risk reduction options and associated costs. Water systems should review their vulnerability assessments periodically to account for changing threats or additions to the system to ensure that security objectives are being met. Preferably, a vulnerability assessment is "performance-based," meaning that it evaluates the risk to the water system based on the effectiveness (performance) of existing and planned measures to counteract adversarial actions. **For more information contact the EPA website.**

City of Rupert

The City of Rupert was awarded a Rural Development loan in the amount of \$1,500,000 and a grant in the amount of \$485,000 to replace their aging and inadequate sewer plant. The sewer plant has been processing two to three times the capacity of waste it was designed to handle. A mandate came from the Department of Environmental Quality to upgrade the facility or face \$1,000 per day fines. Construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and upgrade of the land application system to meet the state and federal discharge will begin in 2005.



St. Anthony—2005 Earth Day Project

Earth Day was celebrated on April 26, 2005 in the City of St. Anthony. In attendance for the celebration was Mike Field, State Director, Craig Thurgood, Loan Specialist and Dan Fraser, Community Programs Director.

The City of St. Anthony was presented a check from Rural Development for \$2,700,000 in loan and grant funds. The existing wastewater collection and treatment system in St. Anthony is deteriorating and



inadequate to meet current State requirements for wastewater systems. The City was in violation of many of the Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

The City approved a \$5 million sewer revenue bond and applied for funding to Rural Development, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Environmental Quality.



St. Anthony Reservoir

Contact Your Local Area Office

Blackfoot : (208) 785-5840

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida, Power, Teton

Caldwell: (208) 459-0761

Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, Washington

Coeur d'Alene:

(208) 762-4939

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, Shoshone

Twin Falls: (208) 733-5380

Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Twin Falls